

# **TOWN OF MANSFIELD ■ FOUR CORNERS WATER AND SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **Meeting Minutes ■ February 7, 2012**

Present: Rawn (chair), Paulhus, Reich, Ferrigno, Lennon, Hart, Thompson, Schaefer  
Hultgren (staff), Painter (staff)

Guests: van Zelm (MDP), Coite (UConn Office of Env Policy), Wassmundt (Old Tpke Rd), Suprenant  
(Gurleyville Rd), Sobanik (Celeron Square), Morse (Birchwood Heights)

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by chair Rawn.

### Minutes

Hart MOVED, Paulhus SECONDED to approve the January 10, 2012 minutes with the following modifications/corrections:

- Correction to spelling of Paulhus name
- Changes to last sentence of the summary on the HUD Community Challenge Planning Grant to clarify that the Sustainability Committee would be taking the lead on the Sustainable Design and Green Building Action Plan, not Rich Miller.

The motion passed unanimously; Schaefer was not present.

### Public Comment

- David Morse, 64 Birchwood Heights, addressed the committee regarding the need for a water governance model that includes municipal input and noted that in his opinion, a non-profit municipal authority may be the best option. He expressed concern that a 2003 report identified the Meadowoods and Lynwood Road areas as potentially needed public water service, yet there are no plans to expand water service to those areas. He also identified the need for water supply for the planned assisted living facility, which cannot proceed without a public water supply.
- Pat Suprenant, 441 Gurleyville Road, addressed the committee regarding the need to regulate the University water supply system, and indicated that she felt the operations excerpt from the 2007 UConn Water and Wastewater plan was misleading, did not address larger environmental concerns and did not address the alternative of UConn becoming a public water company under state statute. She referenced the recommendation of the Conservation Commission to the Town Council regarding water governance that encouraged the Council to pursue legislative change. Suprenant also noted that the Attorney General opinion on UConn's status as a water supply system was not binding.

At the conclusion of the public comment period, Reich noted that she had requested that staff provide a copy of the operations section of the 2007 Water/Wastewater Master Plan only as a starting point for discussion of the governance issue.

### Old Business

- **EIE Status/UConn Coordination Update.** Jason Coite updated the Committee on the status of the EIE. A public scoping meeting was held on January 24<sup>th</sup> regarding a change in scope to add potential relocation of Well A at the Fenton Wellfield to the groundwater options under consideration. Coite noted that numerous comments were received at the meeting and during the comment period; all of the comments received will be made a part of the record and included in the EIE. Coite also noted that the anticipated February release date of the draft EIE will be delayed approximately 6 weeks to April. This extension is due to the scope expansion and the delay in test well results from the Mansfield Hollow area. Hultgren noted that the Town needs authorization for two test wells from the Army Corps of

Engineers before test wells at the Hollow can proceed. Drilling can proceed as soon as that approval is received weather permitting.

With regard to comments received by members of the public, Hart requested that staff add a link to the 2007 Water and Wastewater Master Plan to the Four Corners Committee website. He also noted that the denial of water service to the assisted living facility was due to the timing of the request and the lack of capacity for non-committed uses at this time. Reich noted that the assisted living facility is one of many projects that have been identified as needing water, which is why the EIE is moving forward. Hultgren clarified that while the 2003 report identified uses such as the subdivisions referenced by Morse that could potentially need water, that listing was only of potential needs, no formal review or decision has ever been made on many of those projects. In contrast, the Town has specifically identified the need for the Four Corners area and the assisted living project.

Ferrigno asked for information on the differences between a water company and a water supply system. Coite and Reich identified some differences before Rawn noted that the discussion was better suited to the governance item later in the agenda.

#### New Business

- **Pump Station Design.** Hultgren distributed an email from Christopher Wester with Weston & Samson regarding the status of the pump station design. They will be meeting later this week to go over progress in more detail. He noted that the pump station is expected to cost more than originally anticipated due to the size of the pumps that will be needed to address head (elevation) conditions. Hultgren and Thompson provided a basic explanation of why a larger pump would be needed and what was meant by the term 'large static head condition.'
- **Water Workshop.** Hart provided an overview of the upcoming water workshop with the Town Council and key committees such as Four Corners, Planning and Zoning and Conservation. The workshop will address regulation of both the University and Willimantic systems and community wells. Representatives from the various regulatory agencies and water suppliers will be invited. The workshop will include Q&A sessions for both the Council and the public. The Council has requested that the workshop be scheduled for after the draft EIE is released, and prior to the deadline for comments. Based on Coite's earlier report on the anticipated release of the draft, Hart is expecting the workshop to be scheduled for the April/May timeframe.
- **Water and Sewer Governance Discussion.** The Committee used the excerpt from the 2007 UConn Water and Wastewater Master Plan as a starting point for discussion on future governance of the water supply system, which the Committee generally acknowledged was an extremely complex issue. Hart asked Coite for a status update on the legal review that UConn had planned after the issuance of the 2007 report. Coite noted that while he believed a firm had been hired, he did not know whether any work on the issue had been done. Hart requested an update for the next meeting.

Paulhus suggested that a matrix identifying the differences between different governance models, including water supply systems and water companies should be developed for the water workshop. The matrix should also address availability of different funding sources for the various models such as grant eligibility, etc. Hart noted that while the governance issue is related to the committee's work, it is primarily the jurisdiction of the Town Council. As the issue needs to be addressed in a deliberative fashion, he expects the Council to seek input from a number of parties, including the committee. Reich suggested that creation of another committee devoted to the governance issue or an expansion of the Four Corner's committee charge might be warranted.

Thompson suggested that the committee identify the largest obstacle in providing sewer/water to the Four Corners and focus efforts on resolving that issue, whether it be governance, funding, capacity, etc.

#### Future Meetings

Rawns requested that the next meeting be held someplace other than Conference Room B due to its small size/inability to accommodate the Committee and members of the public. The library/Buchanan Center was suggested as a possible alternative.

Reich asked for an update on research into the Town's ability to regulate development within the Tech Park. Painter noted that review of prior legal opinions from both Town Attorneys and the Attorney General was underway. Reich requested a report at the next meeting.

Hart suggested that the Committee start thinking about hosting an information session for property owners in the proposed water/sewer district and members of the public. Hultgren suggested the meeting be scheduled once the EIE and pump station design are complete.

#### Adjournment

Paulhus MOVED, Lennon SECONDED to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Painter, AICP  
Director of Planning and Development